

## Oman to boost oil output

MUSCAT (R) — Oman will produce 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil "in the very near future," a senior Oman minister said in an interview reprinted here Saturday. The statement by Sayeed Fahd bin Taimour, deputy prime minister for security and defence, was the first official acknowledgement that Oman intends to continue raising output despite calls by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for restraint by non-OPEC members. "Production is currently about 450,000 bpd and it will reach 500,000 bpd in the very near future. Insha' Allah," he said. The latest official figures show that non-OPEC Oman produced an average of 481,000 bpd in March compared with an average last year of 416,000 bpd. Oil industry sources told Reuters that production stayed at around 480,000 bpd in April and May of this year and would probably reach 500,000 bpd by November.

# Jordan Times

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## Arabsat 2 prepared for launch

ABU DHABI (Petra) — Final preparations for the launch of the second Arab satellite are currently underway, the under-secretary of Ministry of Communications in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Rashed Sultan Al Makhawi, said Saturday. Mr. Makhawi said that necessary steps are being taken to rectify the situation of the first Arab satellite after discovering technical faults. Speaking about the second satellite to be launched on June 17, Mr. Makhawi said that tests were taking place in accordance with a detailed working plan and contacts were underway between the manufacturing French company and the Arab Satellite Communication Corporation (Arabsat) in preparation for launching it as scheduled. In a statement carried by the Emirates News Agency, Mr. Makhawi said the second satellite will be launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, aboard the space shuttle Discovery, which will carry an Arab astronaut among its crew.

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## Khayyat hosts Iftar for Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday attended an Iftar banquet held in his honour by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat. Attending the banquet with Prince Hassan were a number of civil and military officials and Muslim scholars.

## Democrats attack Reagan policy

WASHINGTON (R) — House of Representatives Speaker Thomas O'Neill Saturday predicted the Democrat-led body would soon pass tough economic sanctions against South Africa and urged President Reagan to back regional peace efforts in Central America. In the Democratic Party's weekly radio response to Mr. Reagan, Mr. O'Neill said of U.S. policy towards South Africa and Nicaragua, "what we are doing contradicts what America stands for."

## Israel says two commandos killed

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said Saturday it killed two armed commandos Friday night in its self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, a military spokesman said Saturday. He said there were no Israeli casualties in the clash near the town of Hasbaya, at the eastern edge of the buffer area which is eight to 20 kilometres deep. Israeli troops were due to complete their final withdrawal from Lebanon next week. Lebanese security sources said Friday the Israeli army already had evacuated several key posts, including barracks in mostly Christian Marjayoun and positions in Bint Jbeil, a predominantly Shiite Muslim village.

## Rebels reportedly kill 50 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist guerrillas killed at least 50 people Friday in raids on Sinhalese villages in Sri Lanka's eastern province, a senior government politician said Saturday. He told Reuters guerrillas stormed Seruwawila Neelapola, Dehiwatte and Mahindapura, close to the main town Trincomalee, burning homes and fighting residents. Earlier, the government said five people were killed and three critically wounded when guerrillas attacked Dehiwatte and Mahindapura. More than 50 homes were set on fire (Related story on page 8).

## Zhao begins European tour

PEKING (R) — Premier Zhao Ziyang left Peking for a tour of Britain, West Germany and The Netherlands Saturday, affirming that China's top leadership did not plan a reshuffle in the near future. At an airport press conference Mr. Zhao said top leader Deng Xiaoping and Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang would retain their positions. There has been speculation about Chinese leadership changes in Hong Kong newspapers. "I can tell you this is groundless," Mr. Zhao said. Mr. Zhao is due to start a seven-day visit to Britain on Sunday.

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# King Queen arrive in London from U.S.

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

LONDON — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Saturday from Washington after concluding an official four-day visit during which the King held talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and senior administration officials on prospects for peace in the Middle East in the wake of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a joint political strategy towards a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem.

President Reagan and other senior U.S. officials praised Jordan's concerted moves for peace in the region, but differences remained over means to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

In his talks in Washington, the King emphasised that the joint Jordan-PLO strategy offered the last chance for peace in the Middle East and reaffirmed his call for the inclusion of the PLO and the participation of the Soviet Union in any peace effort.

King Hussein told Mr. Reagan that Jordan and the PLO were ready for a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem on the basis of all pertinent U.N. resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and said an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO and all five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, was the best forum to achieve such a settlement.

Washington, a long-time opponent of an international conference on the Middle East which will bring the Soviet Union to the fore of the region's diplomacy, indicated flexibility on the issue after the King's talks in Washington, but cautioned that Moscow should show that it was willing to contribute "positively" to

In a sign that Washington was considering some flexibility on its opposition to the proposal, Mr. Shultz said in remarks over a dinner he hosted in honour of the King Wednesday that the U.S. administration was willing to work with Jordan to provide an "international context" to Middle East peace talks.

Earlier on the same day, Mr. Reagan, after talks with the King, indicated that the issue of an international conference was under discussion. But, he also said differences remained.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes Friday summed up the U.S. thinking over a possible Soviet role in Middle East peace efforts by saying that the U.S. will weigh its endorsement of Moscow's role in an international conference on the Middle East in light of the ultimate benefit in enhancing the prospect of direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One as President Reagan was returning home from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Speakes praised King Hussein's statement on willingness of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate a settlement under terms of U.N. Resolutions, including 242 and 338. He said King Hussein's statement "can have a profound effect on the Middle East peace process. We do think that King Hussein has made a courageous step. His words... were significant." Repeating the stance that Washington will be studying the proposal's call for an international peace conference, he added, "We found the proposal... interesting. We are looking into it (King Hussein's) comments... are an important step in the Middle East peace process."

He said Washington will be looking at such a conference "in terms of whether it would lead to direct talks between Jordan, Palestinians and Israelis."

Noting that King Hussein's proposal would include the Soviet Union — as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council — as

(Continued on page 3)

## Fears rise in Bekaa, Sidon as shaky Beirut truce holds

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Militiamen of the Lebanese Shiite Amal movement and units of the army's Sixth Brigade Saturday tightened their siege around the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp after claiming to have overrun the Sabra and Shatila camps, but fresh confrontations were reported in east and south Lebanon despite a ceasefire order by Amal leader Nabih Berri late Friday.

Mr. Berri said the ceasefire order to his fighters, who launched assaults against the Palestinian camps 12 days ago, was given after intervention by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Syria was reported to be preparing to send troops from east Lebanon to enforce the ceasefire around the Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps and to end Lebanese decade-old civil war.

Reporters in Syrian-controlled East Lebanon said Amal men and Palestinian fighters shelled each other around a village 22 kilometres east of the ancient city of Baalbek Friday night.

There was no immediate word on casualties in the battle that ended after the Syrian army intervened, saying it would order the Damascus-backed Palestinian fighters to return to their bases.

Amal militiamen set up checkpoints on major highways in the region Saturday.

In South Lebanon, Palestinians began fortifying the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp outside the port city of Sidon. The camp is bordered by Amal-controlled villages, where Amal militiamen and Lebanese army soldiers reinforced their positions.

Police said three explosions were heard in 'Ain Al Hilweh Saturday as bulldozers erected earthworks and armed Palestinians patrolled the camp, one of the lar-

geantarian reasons."

Palestinian spokesmen conceded Sabra has fallen, but said their men are still holding out in strongholds in Shatila. Amal militiamen reported they were still coming under sniper fire in Sabra and Shatila despite Friday's ceasefire.

A Reuters dispatch said shooting was continuing at the camps Saturday. Security sources quoted by Reuters and the AP indicated that 13 days of fighting had taken 460 lives, injured over 1,600.

The death toll during the battle for control of the camps accounted for at least 675 violent deaths in May — Lebanon's highest monthly tally for almost two years.

Sporadic gunfire broke out at Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh Saturday as Red Cross workers waited for the ceasefire to take hold so they could evacuate trapped casualties.

President Amin Gemayel briefed politicians in east Beirut on talks he held this week with President Assad on prospects for military cooperation to end Lebanon's civil war, radio stations reported.

Palestinians said houses in Sabra were being destroyed in an effort to make sure the Palestinians do not return to their homes.

About 40 rockets hit Beirut Friday night as a coalition of Palestinian groups, the national salvation front, vowed to defend Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh, radios said.

The shelling, which the radios said came from hills above the city, killed four people in east Beirut and caused casualties in the west.

The Amal militia has accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat

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Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with Princess Iman leave aircraft upon arrival at London's Heathrow airport Saturday (AP wirephoto)

## Khatib denies alleged coup plot

KUWAIT (AP) — A Kuwaiti newspaper Saturday quoted the Jordanian information minister as categorically denying a report about a conspiracy to topple the Jordanian government.

Mr. Mohammad Al Khatib told the newspaper Al Rai Al Aam in a telephone interview that the report by the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas was a "figment of imagination, devoid of any truth."

"Jordan enjoys a climate of complete stability, and the (Al Qabas) story is entirely fabricated," said Mr. Khatib.

He said that the alleged leader of the purported conspiracy, a man called Hassan Obeidat, "has lived in Syria more than 20 years... he is a mere mercenary."

Al Qabas had claimed in a front page banner headline report Friday that Obeidat was arrested last week at the town of Salt.

The paper further claimed that accomplices also were arrested and arms caches discovered, claiming that Obeidat had plotted a series of terrorist attacks to overthrow the Jordanian government.

Al Qabas had claimed that King Hussein was cutting short his visit



Mohammad Al Khatib

to Washington and cancelling a planned trip to Spain, because of the alleged conspiracy.

But Mr. Khatib told Al Rai Al Aam that the Washington visit was never cut short, adding that

the King flew to London for medical checkups Saturday.

Mr. Khatib told the paper that the King's talks in Washington with U.S. President Ronald Reagan were "extremely fruitful."

The Reagan administration, he said, was showing positive response to the Jordanian proposal for an international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Khatib added that Washington was "beginning to accept" the idea of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) participation in the Mideast peace process.

Under-Secretary of Information, Mr. Michel Hamameh, said Saturday that Hassan Hajaj Obeidat had been arrested in April for interrogation because he is connected with the Baath party. That organisation, like all other parties, is banned in Jordan.

"There is nothing whatsoever about a coup d'etat," Mr. Hamameh said.

He also denied reports that other people had been arrested with Obeidat or that he was accused of smuggling guns into Jordan.

## U.N. chief, Castro agree on Namibia

MEXICO CITY (AP) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Cuban President Fidel Castro agreed Friday that peace will not come in southern Africa until South Africa gives Namibia independence, according to the Cuban news agency.

There is "no doubt" Namibia should be given independence, with free elections, a Prensa Latina dispatch from Havana quoted Mr. Perez de Cuellar as saying.

"We cannot accept any condition for the solution of the problem of Namibia that is not contained in Resolution 435," he added.

There will be no solution in southern Africa without Resolution 435 and the independence of Namibia," the dispatch, monitored here, quoted Dr. Castro as saying.

## Four reportedly hurt in Gaza grenade blast

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military source said Saturday four Palestinians were wounded in Gaza City when a hand grenade, aimed at an Israeli army patrol, missed and exploded on the pavement instead.

Immediately after the incident, Israeli troops fired shots into the air and detained several Arabs for questioning, he said.

The Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, home to some 500,000 Palestinians, had been relatively quiet in recent months.

Meanwhile, reports from the occupied territories said the Israeli occupation authorities have imposed very high taxes on Arab properties in the occupied Galilee triangle area.

Arab landlords held a meeting at Al Salam Mosque in Nazareth in occupied Palestine, during the last few days to discuss means of

confronting the Israeli plans and protecting their land, the reports said.

Following the meetings, they issued a statement denouncing the Israeli measures as aiming at confiscating the remainder of the Arab land through imposing high taxes.

The mayor of Shafa Amr and chairman of the Arab local councils committee in occupied Palestine, Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, said that the committee will use all possible means to counter the new Israeli measures aimed at forcing the Arabs to leave their lands.

"This abrupt tax rise is an indirect means to confiscate Arab lands, particularly at a time when landlords cannot pay such taxes in view of the bad economic situations they are facing," Mr. Hussein said.

## Iraq, Iran keep up air raids; ship ablaze in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq Saturday reported air attacks and Tehran's Akhbarat newspaper, the town of Gilan-e Gharb and two army camps while Iran said its fighterbombers attacked the Iraqi cities of Qale Dizeh and Zangeneh.

In the Gulf, a Panamanian-registered container ship was ablaze after being hit by a missile fired by unidentified warplanes, believed to be Iranian.

An Iraqi military spokesman said more than a dozen aircraft were involved in Saturday's air attacks on Mehrabad airport and other targets and all returned safely to base.

Further details were not immediately available.

The Iraqi report followed an earlier Baghdad statement that Iraqi forces had launched a "sweeping and lightning" attack on Iranian troops in the east Tigris River sector of the Gulf war front and destroyed Iranian preparations for a new ground offensive in the 56-month-old conflict.

Baghdad Television interrupted its normal programme to broadcast a statement by a military spokesman that Iraqi forces, backed by artillery fire and helicopter gunships, seized control of man-made islands of rafts and pontoon bridges in the southern marshes prepared by the Iranians to launch a fresh attack on Iraq.

The statement added: "After a fierce battle, our forces ended the fighting by destroying the enemy completely, leaving large numbers of Iranian troops killed, wounded or drowned in the marshes."

A number of Iranian troops had been captured and a 200-metre long chain of connected rafts was seized, it said.

Iraq launched its last offensive in the Huweizeh marshes in southern Iraq last March and Iranian troops crossed the Tigris.

But after a seven-day battle, Iraq said its forces had driven them back killing more than 27,000 soldiers.

Meanwhile, shipping sources in the Gulf said the 15,000-ton Oriental Importer, fully loaded with containers on its way from the Saudi Arabian port of Dammam to Kuwait, was hit by two rockets fired by Iranian aircraft, according to radio messages from the vessel.

The vessel was "badly damaged" when the two rockets set its accommodation quarters ablaze. One of the ship's 28 crewmen was dead, two were reported missing and another was injured in the attack.

The injured seaman was lifted by a Saudi helicopter and taken to hospital at the Saudi industrial centre of Jubail, the sources said.

They said that most of the all-Chinese crewmen jumped from the ship, while salvage tugboats were battling the blaze.

One shipping executive, who refused to be named, told the AP that the ship was "probably attacked by the Iranians because they are the ones to use rockets and hit the accommodation quarters" in the so-called tanker war, offshoot of the Iran-Iraq war.

"The oriental importer called for help but gave no hint as to who had caused its distress," one marine salvage executive said. Salvage tugboats rushed from Dubai and Bahrain to help it out. The distress signal merely said the ship was badly damaged.

Iraq, which usually reports its attacks on vessels in the Gulf, said it hit a "large naval target" near the main Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island on Thursday but there was no independent confirmation.

Iraq said Friday it attacked installations at Kharg, in what shipping sources said was an intensive raid. But oil tanker loadings were not affected, the sources said.

Saturday's strike was the second in four days which shipping sources have attributed to Iran. The 18,535-ton West German container ship Norasia Rebecca was hit east of Qatar on Wednesday but nobody aboard was hurt.







## Italian TV programme sparks Arab protest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Ambassador to Italy Tareq Madi Thursday met with the chairman and members of the Italian parliamentary committee that monitors radio and television programmes to discuss the daily screening by Italian Television's channel two of a programme that offends Arab and Islamic traditions and culture, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported from Rome.

Mr. Madi told KUNA that he protested to the chairman of the committee the appearance, in the programme entitled "Night Dwellers", of an actor dressed in an Arab costume which offends Islamic traditions.

A senior Jordanian official at the embassy had earlier met with the Middle East division officials at the Italian Foreign Ministry and informed them of Jordan's official protest at the programme's con-

tents. Mr. Madi added that he told the Italian official that it is not acceptable to show a recreational programme at the expense of other nations. Had the programme been shown for one time only, we would have accepted it as incidental, Mr. Madi said.

The ambassador also said that he inquired the committee's chairman if that was the official look to Arabs.

However the Italian official said that the programme was not intended to offend the Arabs and promised to take the necessary action to settle the issue, Mr. Madi told KUNA.

Mr. Madi added that he had sent a memorandum to the head of the Arab League's delegation in Rome asking him to list this issue on the agenda of the next Arab ambassadors meeting.

## 30 poisoned at Al Hassa in satisfactory condition

TAFLEH (Petra) — The assistant director of Health in Karak Governorate, Baker Harassib, Saturday said that thirty people working for a company, at Al Hassa Phosphate mines, who had developed food poisoning Friday, are now in satisfactory health condition and that eight persons admitted to Tafleh Hospital will be discharged soon.

Dr. Harassib added that a health team was sent to the work site and extracted samples of water and food and inspected the restaurants and health facilities to know the reason behind the poisoning.

The poisoning incident was reported at 1.00 a.m. Friday,

when five people were rushed to Tafleh Hospital followed by three others who were admitted to the hospital at 8.00 a.m. Meanwhile, six people have been injured when their car hit a circle in Irbid as a result of high speed.

Also in Irbid Governorate two children drowned in the East Ghor Canal. Their bodies were found Thursday by Civil Defence forces.

In Ajloun a 25 year old youth has been killed when he was hit by a bullet from a pistol his cousin, was cleaning.

In North Shouneh three children were hit by a pick up and developed serious injuries.

## King, Queen in London

(Continued from page 1)

a conference participant. Speakers were asked if the United States could join such a meeting.

"It would be something we would look at as we consider whether to support an international conference. The Soviets have previously participated in conferences. Their agenda for the Middle East is quite different from ours. We're studying the idea, the proposal... we would discuss the idea among ourselves and with the Jordanians. It is not a proposal that has come with a great deal of details. We would have to think about the details. We would have to think about the benefits to the process," Speaker said.

He said until the matter is studied, he could not "really answer the question" of whether Washington would rule out Soviet participation.

Asked if the United States has changed its position on the conference, he said Washington "had previously said we did not think an international conference was the best route in the Middle East. But there are various means of holding a conference. How would it be held? Where would it be held? Would it be held under the auspices of an existing organization?" He said the question Washington wanted answered is "Would it enhance the peace process and would it lead to direct talks between the Palestinians, Jordanians and Israelis."

During his visit to Washington, the King also discussed American economic and financial aid in Jordan and U.S. army sales, to meet the Kingdom's defensive requirements. No specific details were available on the two issues, but Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, confirming the discussions, told Jordan Television that the issues will be followed up on through continuing contacts between Amman and Washington.

The King and Queen, accom-

panied by Prime Minister Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al-Jasem and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, arrived in Providence, Rhode Island, on a private visit on May 22 before beginning the official visit to Washington. In Providence, the King addressed the 1985 class of graduates of Brown University, which included Prince Faisal Ibn Hussein, and attended the graduation ceremony.

The King also received a honorary degree from Georgetown University. In an address to the university, he said the Middle East was in dire need for a substitute for the present state of "horror and suspense, destruction and suffering" which the area is witnessing.

The King, addressing the American Enterprise Institute on Friday, reaffirmed his call for the inclusion of the PLO and Soviet participation in any effort for peace in the Middle East (See full text of the King's speech on page 5).

King Hussein also held talks with members of the U.S. Congress and Mr. Rifai said the talks were aimed at briefing the congressmen on the Feb. 11 agreement and the Jordan-PLO strategy.

Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, who later joined the official delegation accompanying the King, attended official talks with U.S. officials in addition to Mr. Rifai, Mr. Jassem and Prince Ra'ed.

Mr. Rifai and Gen. Sharif Zaid are accompanying the King in his visit to London. Mr. Masri stayed back in the U.S., reports said.

King Hussein is scheduled to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher next week for talks on the Middle East. He will also continue medical check-ups he started earlier in the British capital.

## New fears in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

of provoking the fighting in an attempt to regain the military power he had in Lebanon before Israel's 1982 invasion. Mr. Arafat denies the charge.

Mr. Berri, leader of Amal, Lebanon's largest Shiite militia, personally issued the ceasefire order late Friday after an earlier Amal truce call at noon was ignored by both sides.

"At the request of President Assad, we order all Amal fighters to abide by a general ceasefire in and around the camps... to pave the way for Syrian-sponsored efforts to arrange a final solution," Mr. Berri declared in a statement broadcast by radio stations.

There were widespread reports that Syria was prepared to send troops to the Lebanese capital to end the bloodshed. Reporters in the Bekaa Valley 50 kilometers east of Beirut, said Syrian soldiers had been placed on alert and were moving into new positions.

The movements heightened speculation that President Assad

had agreed to intervene. Newspaper reports said President Amin Gemayel requested Syrian help during a meeting with Mr. Assad in Damascus.

At the United Nations, the Security Council Friday called for an end to violence against civilians in Lebanon, particularly in and around the Palestinian refugee camps.

The 15-nation body adopted unanimously a resolution drafted in two days of private consultations initiated by Egypt over the objections of Lebanon, which insisted that the latest events, though tragic, were not the council's business.

Egyptian Ambassador Ahmad Tawfik Khalil argued that the United Nations had a responsibility to the Palestinians that could not be ignored.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's U.N. observer, Zehdi Terz, said atrocities were being committed with the aim of eliminating the presence of Palestinians from the Beirut area, and probably from the rest of Lebanon.

## Ifia' Committee: Ramadan's alms should be paid by every Muslim

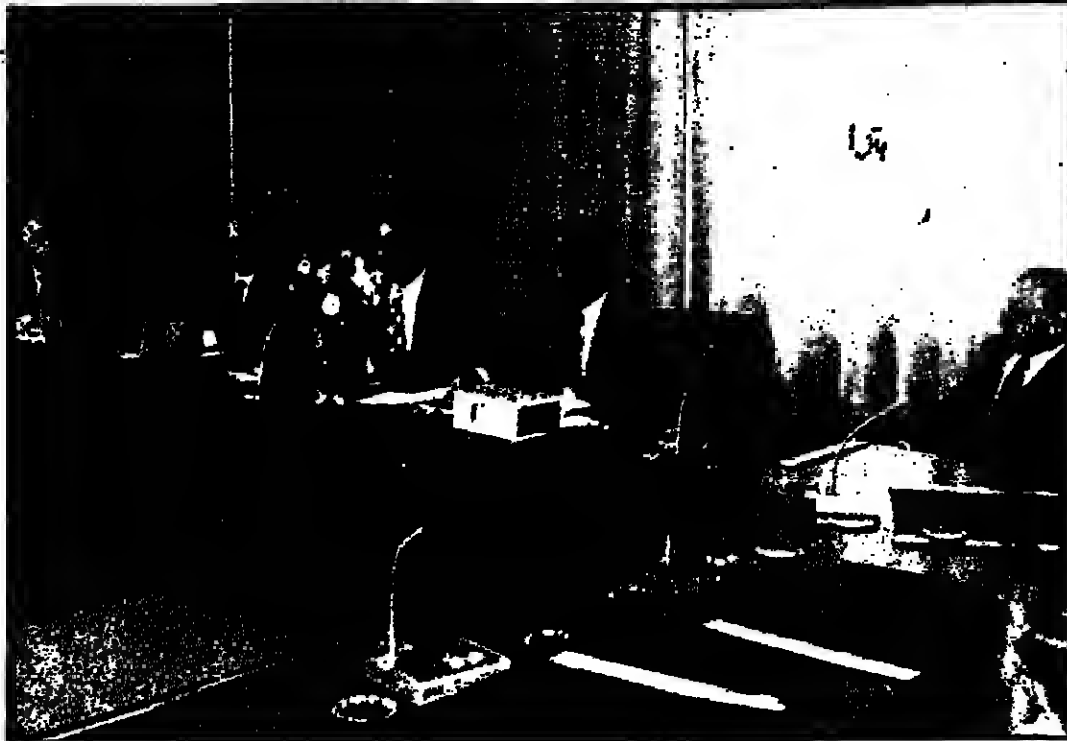
AMMAN (Petra) — The Ifia' (Formal Legal Opinion) Committee has fixed Al Fitr alms at a minimum of 450 fils, to be paid by any Muslim and each member of his family.

The alms is given to the poor during the period from the sunset of Ramadan's last day until Eid Al Fitr morning prayer hut can also be given at any time during the fasting month of Ramadan.

The Fitr alms should be paid by every Muslim, child or adult, female or male, who can afford it. It was enacted to help the poor and to purify the fasting Muslim from whatever errors, mistakes or omissions he might have committed during the month.

The Fitr alms as defined in the time of Prophet Mohammad was a "Sa'a" (a cubic measure of dates, or barley or raisin or rice, or yoghurt or half the quantity in wheat). However, Muslims can give it in cash if they want to.

The Fitr alms committee in Jordan comprises the Chief Islamic Justice, the General Mufti of Jordan, the Armed Forces Mufti, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Director of the Al Aqsa Mosque at the Ministry, a representative from the Faculty of Sharia at the University of Jordan, in addition to the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the director of preaching and guidance at the ministry.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday addresses members of the Jordan Academy of Arabic (Petra photo)

## Crown Prince pays tribute to role played by Academy of Arabic

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday paid tribute to the role played by the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) and its serious efforts to serve the language of the Holy Quran, and for Arabising university studies in the Arab World.

During his visit to the Academy on Saturday Prince Hassan stressed the need for developing school curricula starting from the elementary stage in order to im-

prove the standard of education. President of the Academy Abdul Karim Khalifah briefed Prince Hassan on the establishment of the academy and its various activities and achievements.

Dr. Khalifah said that the academy directs special attention to the Arabic heritage and manuscripts available in the West Bank mosques.

Following the briefing, Prince Hassan toured the academy's various sections.

Arabisation, translation and publishing was established in 1961 and remained in operation until 1976, when the academy was established.

"The idea of establishing the academy," said Dr. Khalifah, "dates back to 1924 when the late King Abdullah decreed the establishment of a scientific academy in Jordan."

"Therefore a committee for

## Academy seeks to promote better use of Arabic

By Olga Mikhael  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Aiming to promote language consciousness and to safeguard the purity of Arabic as a bulwark of Arab identity, the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) was established in 1976 to help the Arab World further its absorption of science and to ensure that Arabic would remain a linguistic medium of civilisation.

"The idea of establishing the JAA goes back to the time of the late King Abdullah, shortly after he had come to Trans-Jordan in 1924," Professor Abdul Karim Khalifah told the Jordan Times. Unfortunately, Prof. Khalifah added, the academy was not to survive at that time because of a shortage of financial, scientific and human resources.

In 1961, the idea of establishing an academy was revived by the Jordanian Committee for Arabization, Translation and Publication which survived until 1976 when the academy came into being. The committee, during that time, functioned as a small language academy. The JAA enjoys the status of a legal institution with financial and administrative autonomy. The academy receives financial assistance from the government budget plus the funds available for the Committee for Arabization, Translation and Publication.

"The Jordanian academy has been careful to present itself as a display window of cultural awakening in Jordan to the educated classes, the various educational institutions and the general public," Prof. Khalifah explained.

The academy's main objective, he explained, is to research the reasons behind the poor language used in the Arab World. Prof. Khalifah went on to say that the academy held several symposia with educational specialists from the Ministry of Education and found that most of the subjects taught at schools such as history, geography, science and mathematics are taught in the colloquial rather than classical language.

In order to tackle such problem, Prof. Khalifah explained that the academy in its first year of establishment identified the vocabulary in use at the elementary stage within the projected framework of applying a uniform vocabulary throughout the Arab World.

Moreover, the academy Arabized scientific and technical terminology used in various departments and essential services in Jordan. After completing this project, the academy founded sister organisations in other Arab countries with a view to achieving uniformity of these terms throughout the Arab World.

"The academy drew up a scheme for translating university scientific text books as part of a comprehensive campaign to Arabize the teaching of science at both the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University," Prof. Khalifah said.

The JAA, he added has translated scientific text books into Arabic which included mathematics, biology, geology, chemistry and physics. "At the beginning of the 1980-1981 academic year, these books were used in first year courses at both universities," Prof. Khalifah ex-

plained. At the end of the academic year, he said, statistics at both universities showed that the failure rate among students dropped from 34 per cent to three per cent which proves that Arab students can understand and comprehend Arabic scientific textbooks more than English text books.

Prof. Khalifah emphasised the fact that the JAA has nothing against any foreign language and said that the proposed Arabization process is but a step to preserve the purity of the Arabic language and to develop it in order to keep pace with the requirements of the modern world in literature, science and arts.

Prof. Khalifah explained the main objectives of the JAA which he outlined as unifying the terminology of the sciences, literary works and arts, compiling lexicons and collaborating in these areas with the Ministry of Education as well as scientific and cultural institutions both inside and outside the Kingdom. The JAA, he added also aims to revive the Arab-Islamic cultural heritage in language, science, literature and arts.

Since its establishment in 1976, the academy has tried to achieve these objectives by undertaking several duties and projects. Among these, the academy encouraged the writing of books, translations and publications, arranged competitions for this purpose and founded an academy library.

The JAA has also translated international masterpieces and published books translated into and from Arabic. In 1983 the JAA published index of manuscripts by Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi Al-Khalil (Hebron), the index of manuscripts by Al-Ahmadiah Library in Akka (Acre) which deals with philosophy, linguistics and other subjects, the index of manuscripts of Haj Nimer Annahuli Mosque in Nablus, which deals with religious and linguistic.

The academy has also published book entitled "Almuqni fi Alf-laba", written by Ahmad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Hajjaj Al-Ishbeeli and verified by Salah Jarar and Jaser Abu Safeyeh under the supervision of Dr. Abdul Aziz Ad-Duri.

Other projects and duties the academy has implemented so far included language conference at home and abroad, publishing new Arabic terms which have been agreed by the Arab World and circulating these terms in all state institutions. Moreover, the JAA issued a periodical called "Journal of the Jordan Academy of Arabic" which outlines the academy's activities and achievements in various fields.

The academy participated in an annual conference held by the Cairo Academy of Arabic and took part in the eighth international convention for statistics, scientific calculations and social and demographical research works which was held in Ain Shams University in Cairo," Prof. Khalifah said.

As part of its Arabization programme, the JAA has Arabized terminology used by infantry corps, military terms for maintenance, economic, banking, trade and agricultural terms. "A large number of miscellaneous lists are still under consideration, such as military terms for various corps, artillery, armoured veh-

icles, engineering and telecommunications," Prof. Khalifah explained.

This year the JAA is holding different cultural seasons in which lectures and symposia are given every Saturday. During these lectures, Jordanian and Arab lecturers participated and gave lectures on various subjects including mathematics, Islamic architecture, astronomy and medicine.

"Last year four lectures from different Arab countries attended the cultural season and gave lectures on experiments in Arabization, simplifying Arabic grammar, Arabizing medicine and language technology and linguistic heritage, Prof. Khalifah said. In

addition, he added, a panel discussion was also conducted on the subject of the role of language academies in modern Arab scientific life.

Besides the JAA, three other Arab academies have been established in Damascus, Cairo and Baghdad. However, active JAA members believe that the number of terms and books which have to be Arabized and translated in order to keep abreast with the times are far too many for three Arab academies to cope with.

The JAA is a member in the union of Arab academies and has already participated in many scientific conferences and seasonal exhibitions held in various Arab countries.

## Bethlehem's mayor to brief European leaders on Palestinian question

## Freij off to Europe

By Hamadeh Fara'aneh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij left Amman Saturday for Stockholm, Sweden, on the first leg of an official visit to several European countries.

During his trip, which comes in response to invitations from European leaders, Mr. Freij is expected to hold talks with senior European officials on the situation in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Mr. Freij will also discuss the possibility of meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Freij described the importance of his visit saying it comes at a time when "more massacres are carried out and plots are being hatched against the Palestinians in their homeland or abroad." He said the current Palestinian situation calls on the international community to exert more genuine efforts to end the Palestinian plight.

Mr. Freij said he was going to convey to European leaders a comprehensive picture of "the aggravated crises the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are facing."

Citing the arbitrary and oppressive measures Israel practises against the Palestinian people and violations of their human rights, Mr. Freij said that Israel continues to confiscate Arab land to establish settlements which induce basic change in the demographic situation of the occupied territories.

Mr. Freij also said he will call on European countries and the European Community to increase their financial aid to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The small amount of aid to Arab residents in the occupied territories does not exceed \$2 million annually, which does not cover scholarships granted to students," he said.

Commenting on His Majesty

King Hussein's visit to the United States and the outcome of his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Freij said the Palestinians did not anticipate a basic change in the U.S. stand towards the Middle East. He said America's perspective in this regard are identical to that of Israel. "Both Israel and the U.S. hold a rigid stand reflected in imposing impossible terms on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," he said.

However, the results of Arab leaders' U.S. visits, crowned by King Hussein's visit, have "achieved a significant step on the path to peace," Mr. Freij said.

"The U.S. readiness to hold dialogue with a Joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the moderation of Washington's stand against convening an international peace conference on the Middle East prior to direct negotiations between concerned parties are a new U.S. tone from which we must benefit," he said.

In reply to a question on the continuing attacks against Palestinian refugee camps in west Beirut by Lebanese militiamen and elements of Lebanese army, Mr. Freij said, there is only one lesson to be learnt from these massacres against the Beirut-based refugees. It was said by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak: "Arab capitals, despite their differences, all agree on playing Palestinians."

Mr. Freij said it was time to "raise the voice of Palestinian national unity with the return of all factions and dissidents to under the PLO flag."

Mr. Freij is also due to visit Belgium, West Germany, Britain, France and Italy in addition to Sweden.

## Ministry asks for a study on mini dams

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakkhan Saturday asked President of the Water Authority of Jordan Mohammad Kilani to undertake a study on farmers' demands over the possibility of constructing dams to prevent soil erosion, as a result of floods in some jirads of Mafraq district. Mr. Dakkhan's request, which was contained in a memorandum sent to Mr. Kilani, said that dams can be used for irrigating land as part of the government's policy to support the agricultural sector.

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NATO officials said they feared a reelected PASOK would hold Mr. Papandreou to his promise to close down all U.S. bases in Greece when the present agreement expires in 1988.



# King: PLO, Soviet participation vital in Mideast peace talks

His Majesty King Hussein Friday called for the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in any effort for peace in the Middle East and also said the Soviet Union should inevitably be a party to any peace process. In a speech to the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a private research group the King urged U.S. acceptance of his proposal for Mideast peace negotiations under an international "umbrella" that would include the Soviet Union. Following is full text of the address:

President Baroudy,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

QUEEN NOOR joins me in expressing our pleasure in being with you today. We thank you for your warm reception and gracious introduction. We are delighted to be in Washington again and to be among so many friends here at AEI.

We value highly the contribution of your prestigious institute to a better understanding of world affairs, and we appreciate the attention which you have given to the question of peace in our area.

I will focus my remarks on where I think we stand today on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. This focus does not mean we are unmindful or indifferent to other problems we all face in the world; the nuclear threat, the famine in Africa, the danger-filled gap between the haves and the have-nots, and the other conflicts around the world which are threatening lives and freedoms. We are concerned about all of these problems but our major concern at the moment is peace in the Middle East, and that is what I wish to discuss with you.

Earlier this week, I met with President Reagan. I also met with Vice President Bush, Secretary Shultz, Secretary Weinberger and other senior American officials. There is one basic point on which we all agree: the world cannot afford to miss what might be the last opportunity for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

So let us place this conflict and the struggle for peace in a certain perspective. We observed this month the fortieth anniversary of

the end of World War II. Armed with the lessons of that war, and in its determination to ensure that it would not happen again, and that all future conflicts would be resolved peacefully, the community of nations established the organization to achieve that goal — the United Nations. World consent and support was unanimous. The ideals, the principles, the framework and the intentions were exemplary, indeed, noble. The principles established to govern national conduct embodied a standard of values, universal in their acceptance and in their application. The new world order was to be based on justice, the inalienability of human rights, the illegality of conquest, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. A new world order was born; but the child's growth has been severely stunted by self-serving parents. A superior concept has produced inferior results. We all share responsibility for the failure. Many in this world have been the victims of its consequences.

One cannot discuss the Middle East in a vacuum, divorced from power politics or accepted norms of national conduct. I have selected the United Nations Charter for such norms, because it is a common document we have all accepted and signed. There is thus, no room to argue principles, only their application. It has particular applicability to the Middle East because more hours have been consumed, more documents produced and more resolutions enacted, by the United Nations, on the Middle East conflict than all other conflicts and issues combined. Specifically, the accepted principles for a peaceful set-

tlement of that conflict, are contained in two of those resolutions: 242 and 338.

You might rightly ask, do the Palestinian people, who are obviously a principal party to any settlement, since it is, indeed, essentially the problem of their lives, land and future we are attempting to solve, accept these two resolutions which are to form the basis for peace? I will tell you what I assured President Reagan. The answer is yes, the Palestinians are willing to accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principles they contain, as the basis for a settlement.

This is an historic breakthrough. It is the first time in the thirty-nine year history of this conflict that Palestinian leaders, with the support of their people, have been willing to accept a negotiated peaceful settlement.

The evolution of this decision over thirty-nine years has its answer in some of the events which transpired during that period. I wish to remind you of some of them, not because I care to dwell on history, but because it will help explain the import of that decision and the ramifications it has on the peace process. I will summarize them briefly. Despite what may be the views and opinions in the West, this is how the Palestinian people view this problem.

In 1917, when Britain's Balfour promised a "homeland for the Jews in Palestine", Jewish residents formed only nine per cent of the population. By 1947, waves of Jewish immigrants increased their percentage of the population to thirty-five per cent. In that same year, the United Nations partitioned the country, creating a Jewish and a Palestinian state. Fifty-five per cent of the land was given to the Jewish minority, most of whom came from Europe. Forty-five per cent went to the Palestinian majority, all of whom were born there. There were no Jews in the Palestinian state. There were almost as many Palestinians as Jews in the Jewish state. The most economically dev-

elopment of Palestine was included in the Jewish state. All this was done without Palestinian consent or consultation. The shock and rejection of the Palestinian should not be difficult to understand.

During the 1948 war, Israel captured more land, ending up with seventy-eight per cent. In 1967, it captured the remaining twenty-two per cent. The successive loss of land and lives, and the multitude of refugees it created, caused the shock, resentment, frustration and rejection which persisted. The Palestinians' despair was coupled with dwindling hopes that the international community would somehow redress the injustice and restore their rights and land. It did not.

There has been a change of outlook over recent years and a change of attitude over recent months, which have combined to effect the change in Palestinian policy regarding a peaceful solution. The relative futility of armed struggle and the burdens of continuing military occupation, suffering and destruction, have increased the desire for a peaceful alternative. The new trust which has developed between Jordan and the PLO after the decisions of the Arab summit at Fes, culminating in the February 1985 accord, between the government of Jordan and the PLO, and subsequent understandings, has provided the Palestinians and Jordan, for the first time, with the means by which a peaceful alternative can be realized.

In effect, the Palestinians are turning from a past, despite the injustices, to a future, which will protect their lives, restore their liberty and permit their pursuit of happiness — all of which your nation considers to be rights that are universal and inalienable.

These are the reasons why the new Palestinian position is such an historic breakthrough — and opportunity. If we fail to seize this opportunity, the alternative is fore-ordained: further shock, deeper resentment, greater frustration and sharper rejection —



not only by the Palestinians, but the entire area. Failure is bound to encourage and strengthen terrorism on both sides. That is why time is essential and success imperative.

The Lebanese tragedy has caused both Israelis and Palestinians to begin to re-assess the validity of their previous policies. Both are now considering, simultaneously, the need for a negotiated peace. Each is sceptical. The Palestinians need hope. The Israelis need trust. It is important for all of us to provide the hope and trust they need. If we fail to do so, hope will surely turn to deeper despair and trust to invincible suspicion. The dangers for all of us including them, will be much worse than before.

We believe that as a result of Palestinian acceptance of the agreed principles by which peace is to be achieved, that the stage is now set to proceed toward a peaceful settlement. We believe the process must recognise and incorporate the willingness of the Palestinians to enter that process,

and that, as a principal party, they must participate fully. It is their land and lives which are a major subject of negotiation and a major object of the settlement.

The peace process should be conducted under the auspices of an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, in addition to all the parties to the conflict, including the representatives of the Palestinian people, namely the PLO. The parties to the conflict must be the parties to the peace. If the PLO is not a party to the conflict, then who is? The conference will be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to conclude a final peace settlement which would ensure the Palestinian people their right of self-determination within the context of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. This confederation has been approved by the Palestine National Council in its 16th and 17th sessions. The ultimate outcome must include: the exchange of territory for peace, defined and recognised borders, and a mutual commitment to peace and security by all the parties.

I believe this is a prescription for peace which is not only just, but also attainable. I also believe the next step should be: a dialogue between the United States and Jordanian-Palestinian representatives to complete the understandings which must be reached in order to advance the process, and prepare the ground for a negotiated comprehensive settlement under the auspices of an international conference.

I should make it clear that when I speak of a comprehensive settlement and the exchange of land for peace, I am including Syria and the Golan Heights. The principles of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 apply to the occupied Golan with the same force and effect as to any of the territories under occupation. "It's problem must be thus addressed in the context of peace."

Ladies and gentlemen: Throughout the history of the

Middle East conflict, most of the time and rhetoric has been devoted to the negative pursuit of analysing the problem and objecting to obstacles. There is a positive pursuit which has been neglected, namely the vision of peace. If we achieve the miracle of peace, only our imagination will limit the horizons that will be opened to the nations and peoples of the area. Development of the resources, talent and energies, in an environment of peace and friendship, will assure all people in our area, the prosperity and tranquillity to make it the holy land God surely intended. This is my vision. This is my goal. It should be a goal for us all.

Finally, the role of the United States is essential to the success of our peace efforts. America's ideals and moral leadership are being challenged and America's interests and reputation are at issue.

I have known no American who better exemplifies the spirit and values of your country or is more capable of exerting the moral leadership for which the world yearns, and our peace efforts demand, than President Reagan. I look forward to co-operating with him, and as many others as are willing, in our endeavour to end the Middle East tragedy while there is still time.

Four months ago your president addressed the American people, saying, "We have come to a turning point, a moment of hard decisions". He went on to ask, "If not us, who? If not now, when?" Then, he was talking about an American economic problem. But that same message and that same action applies now to the conquest of peace in the Middle East.

For our part — and I speak for both my own people and the representatives of the Palestinian people — we want peace. We are ready to pursue it now as earnestly and sincerely as it is humanly possible. It is our hope and goal to turn our vision into a reality for all — Jews and Arabs alike. We want you as our partners in this sacred mission for peace. Let us attain our goal. Let us close the door on

the bitter memories of the past, and let us look to the future — that after all, is the promise of peace. Thank you.

After the King's address, written questions collected from the audience were selected and presented to King Hussein by AEI's resident fellow in Middle East affairs, Judith Kipper. In one question in which the summary line asked King Hussein how a future peace would look to him, the King, who normally answered slowly and with great deliberation, quickly responded with a smile, "Peace would look good." His quick response drew enthusiastic applause.

On the advantages and disadvantages of participations by the Soviet Union and others in an international conference, King Hussein said "The advantages are obvious." He explained that the superpowers would be upholding their responsibilities as members of the Security Council and he said, "We wish to avoid polarisation in our area."

"We would like a positive contribution to peace by all," King Hussein told his audience at the Madison Hotel.

King Hussein was also asked why the PLO, if so committed to U.N. Resolution 242 and 338, has not said so publicly. He said he had a statement which he delivered to President Reagan, and that the statement represented the intentions of the government of Jordan and the Palestinians, although he did not specify whether the statement was written or oral.

"If we achieve the miracle of peace, only our imagination will limit the horizons that will be opened to the nations and peoples of the area. Development of the resources, talent and energies, in an environment of peace and friendship, will assure all people in our area, the prosperity and tranquillity to make it the holy land God surely intended," King Hussein said. He called this both his vision and his goal and said peace "should be a powerful incentive for us all to redouble our efforts to achieve this goal."

## 'Famine' charges aid goes to the un-needy

**FAMINE: A man-made disaster? A Report for the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.**

Edited by Mark Malloch Brown.

Reviewed by Anthony Sampson

FOR THOSE accustomed to official and international reports, this short and topical book provides a welcome relief. It is readable, forthright and original, including devastating criticism and emphatic proposals. Anybody who is muddled or hesitant about the facts behind the African famine should read it at once.

The report's theme is summed up in the subtitle: "A man-made disaster?" The question is never

answered. The climate, the isolation and lack of communications in Africa obviously contribute to the disaster (and this is a book about Africa and nowhere else). But the evidence suggests that foreign involvement has not done much to mitigate the famine — and may even have made it worse.

Some important criticism is again the United Nations itself — the more impressive since this commission's co-chairman, Prince Sadruddin, is a special consultant to the U.N. The report insists that far too much aid in drought-ridden countries has gone into showpiece projects to appease local governments, and that international experts and researchers have been too arrogant, and too out of touch with the peasants they are supposed to be helping.

Rightly, the report stresses the importance of the small farmer: while showing how expatriate experts tend to collude

with politicians against him in distant cities, while the agents of multinational companies, whether working in the World Bank or the European Community (EC), have supported large-scale farming for too long.

The peasants, the report believes, often know best about local farming conditions. "Too many scientists," it says, "prefer their laboratories" and "do not break the habit of constantly looking down on local knowledge."

As for the U.N., it has failed to make proper use of the new "disaster relief coordinator" who lacks its own expertise in logistics and transport; and, perhaps most important, "blatantly, the U.N. should be prepared to trespass on states' rights who these are in conflict with the rights of disaster victims."

But the report is determined to rescue hope from the human tragedy; it makes specific recommendations, both for de-

veloping relief and for channelling aid direct to the small farmer, on whom recovery ultimately depends. In particular, it advocates schemes to provide credit for small farmers, which will enable them to choose their own methods of farming: "no top-down agricultural theories will work."

The African government, says the report, "should not be made scapegoats for a disaster whose origins lie also in overseas economic events". It calls for immediate steps to relieve African countries of their debts — particularly Sudan, with its crippling \$9 billion debt. "It is absurd that as relief aid ostensibly flows in, it is becoming even harder for African governments either to borrow fresh concessional finance or to pay back the mounting interest on old loans."

How does a commission of 26 people — half of them from the

"Third World" — manage to agree on such a bold book, with none of the jargon of Utautalk or Bankspunk which obscures so many of its predecessors? The answer must partly lie in the word "for" (rather than "by") the independent commission in the title. For while the book is introduced by the co-chairmen, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and Crown Prince Hassan, and prefaced by another member, Dr. David Owen, it does not (the reader is told) necessarily reflect the views, individually or collectively, of the members.

So the four members of the drafting committee, including the editor, Mark Malloch Brown of "The Economist", appear to have been free to express views which, taken separately, could offend almost every country represented. It is a formula that future commissions might usefully follow — The Economist.

## Memo handed to Murphy by Palestinians

Following is the text of memorandum handed to the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near affairs, Richard Murphy, by Palestinian personalities from the West Bank and Gaza at a meeting on April 16 held at the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem. (The translation is from the Arabic version published by the PLO news agency Wafa in Tunis on April 18.)

THE AMERICAN administration has frequently despatched official and unofficial envoys to the Middle East on missions described sometimes as "fact-finding" and sometimes as "injecting momentum into the peace process" or "seizing opportunities for peace". The administration has usually asked representatives in the region, and especially in the (occupied) Arab territories to organise a number of meetings with personalities from Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, in order to hear their point of view, considering them as representing the viewpoint of the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. On most occasions we have met with these envoys and explained to them the viewpoint of our people, and asked them to convey it to the American administration, the White House, the State Department, and any other relevant quarter.

But despite these many meetings, we have not perceived any change in the American position. The U.S. administration continues to refuse to recognise the right of our people to self-determination, and refuses to talk to the PLO, which our people has affirmed at every opportunity is its sole legitimate representative and which alone has the right to represent it and speak on its behalf.

A continuation of the current American position will not be in the interests of peace in

the Middle East. It will have a negative effect, not only on the people of the region, but also on American and Western interests there. The time has come for the U.S. to review its policies and its prior commitments to the other side, especially those which no longer have any practical value. We therefore place before you on paper the following facts, with the request that you convey them to the officials of your country, foremost among them President Ronald Reagan:

(1) The Palestinians in the occupied homeland are part of the Palestinian people, of which one-third lives here, and two-thirds live in the diaspora. Any settlement of the Palestinian question must deal with the question as a whole, and not just with the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

(2) The Palestine question is a political, national question, as represented in the insistence of the Palestinian people on achieving its national rights, foremost among them the right to self-determination, to establish its independent state on its own soil, and also to choose who should represent it, without coercion or tutelage from any source.

(3) On more than one occasion, inside and outside the occupied homeland, our people has affirmed that it has chosen the PLO as its sole legitimate representative. It sees that choice as practising one of its basic rights.

(4) It is only dealing and holding direct dialogue with the PLO that will put the Arabs on the right road and open the way to the chances of achieving peace.

(5) We gave our unqualified support to the position of the PLO under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, and we demand that dealings should be with it, on anything to do with the Palestinian question.

(6) We demand that the U.S. administration take immediate action to put an end to Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, especially those relating to settlement, land seizures, violations of human rights, and the attempt to eliminate the nationalist spirit among the younger generation of our people.

We hope that you will convey our views to your administration.

Signed: (Haji) Rashad al-Shawwa, (Advocate) Anwar al-Khatib, (Advocate) Anwar Nussalbeh, Hikmat al-Masari, Mustafa al-Natsheh, Elias Freij, Ibrahim al-Tawil, Amin al-Nasr, Azim Lajaj, (Adv.), Zuhair al-Rayyes, Rev. Awdat al-Rantisi, Hanna al-Abrash, Fayed al-Qawasmeh, Amin al-Khatib, Samir al-Jaabari, Adib al-Kuramsi, Muhammad al-Hashem, (Adv.) Fayed Abu Rahma, (Adv.) Ibrahim al-Daqqaq, Izzeddin al-Iryan, Hanna Sanyora, (Adv.) Ziad Abu Ziad, Mansour al-Shawwa, Basel Hamdi Kanaan, Saeed Kanaan, Issam al-Shawwa, Khalid Asseil, Othman Hanna, Issam al-Inani, Faraj al-Aurai, Dr. Akram Matar, Jubair Sabri Khalaf, Hashem al-Saleh, Wasel Shukoum, Mahmoud al-Kawwar.

## Soviet war films shown in United States

By Andrew Katell  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Strained relations led American officials this year to boycott several Soviet events commemorating the end of World War II, but the film industries of the former allies are joining forces this memorial day weekend on the silver screen.

The 40th anniversary Allied Victory Film Festival, which began Friday night in a New York theater and moves to a Washington, D.C., theatre next week, will feature eight Soviet and seven American films about the war. It coincides with the annual holiday Monday honouring American war dead.

The festival, an attempt to increase exposure of Soviet films, is jointly sponsored by Sovexportfilm, which arranges overseas distribution of Soviet films,

and the International Film Exchange Ltd., a New York company that holds U.S. distribution rights for Soviet films.

The event has no U.S. government backing and contrasts to recent Soviet war victory ceremonies which American officials avoided. The U.S. ambassador boycotted the Soviets' Victory Day parade May 9 in Moscow and the U.S. government refused to send a delegation to a ceremony in East Germany marking the link-up of Soviet and American troops on the Elbe River in 1945.

The American films include such classics as "The Best Years of Our Lives," "The Battle of Russia," "A Bridge Too Far," "The Longest Day," "The North Star," "Stalag 17," and "Mission to Moscow." Aside from "Ballad of a Soldier," the Soviet offerings are lesser known in the West, including several being shown for the

first time in the United States. In some cases, it has been a long wait. "At Dawn It's Quiet Here" was released in 1972 and was nominated for an academy award the following year. But Friday night was the first time it was shown to the American public.

"I have here an Oscar nomination, and American academics said it was one of the best five (films) in the world. Why is this film not here?" Asked Stanislav Rostotsky, the director of the film, which is about five young women who defend their village against a Nazi attack.

Rostotsky, who has been promoting the film in Czechoslovakia, West Germany and the United States, said politics frequently stands in the way of Soviet films being shown in the United States.

"There is a very bad legend that all our films are propaganda, pol-

itical and untrue," he said in an interview with the Associated Press in New York. "This is a very harmful perspective. We want to portray our country, we love our country but we show the good side and the bad."

Rostotsky, 63, who was seriously wounded in the war and now walks with a limp, said "At Dawn It's Quiet Here" and his two other films about the war carry a simple message.

"I do films not about the Germans, but about force which is devoted to evil, and weakness which is devoted to good. And the weakness which is devoted to good always triumphs over the force devoted to evil."

"Even during the war, we never equated Germany with fascism. I will never do a film to counter the German people."

The theme of reconciliation

marks another Soviet film premiering at the festival. "Shore" directed by Alexander Alov and Vladimir Naumov, stars Natalia Belokhvosikova as a German girl who falls in love with a Soviet army officer at the end of the war in Germany.

"Despite the environment of hate between the German and Russian people, they feel love — the most human emotion," Ms. Belokhvosikova said in an interview in New York. "It's about feelings — the foundation for good relations. The message for today is: in the end, the main thing is people and their feelings of mutual understanding."

The actress, the daughter of a Soviet diplomat, says it's unfortunate that the film's message will never reach most Americans because the drama is scheduled to be shown only at the festival.

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# EFTA states celebrate 25th anniversary

GENEVA: Who remembers EFTA?

Although its doings rarely make headlines and it has a reputation as a dull, nuts-and-bolts organisation, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Vienna in pretty good trim.

Indeed, not a few European politicians, including a substantial number of British Conservative members of parliament, believe that the less ambitious EFTA, of which the U.K. was a founder-member, has been more successful than its big brother, the European Community (EC).

Mr. Per Kleppe, its Norwegian secretary-general, also argues that the seven EFTA countries — Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland — have on average experienced a more favourable economic development than the Community countries over the last ten difficult years. Economic growth has been higher and unemployment much lower.

The relationship with the EC was the paramount factor in the birth of EFTA and will still dominate proceedings in the Austrian capital. But the quality of that relationship has changed considerably.

In 1960, seven countries, including Britain and Denmark, formed EFTA in response to the creation of the EC of the six — France, Italy, West Germany and the Benelux countries — which for varying political reasons they did not want to, or could not, join. They had in common the fear of economic discrimination by the

Community.

At the beginning of 1984, the EC lifted the last remaining tariffs — on pulp and paper products — in its trade in manufactured goods with EFTA.

The free trade agreements individually negotiated with the Community by the EFTA members had completed the world's largest free market for industrial goods, covering more than 310 million people in 17 countries, and EFTA had secured its \$75 billion annual trade with the EC.

Meanwhile, Britain and Denmark had "defected" to the Community, while Finland and Iceland had become EFTA members.

Portugal will move into the EC fold next year but the conception of EFTA as a waiting-room for entry to the Community is less applicable to the remaining six members.

Four of them — Austria, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland — are neutral countries with differing political constraints against joining the Community.

Norway would have become an EC member in 1973, had its government's plans not been reversed by a referendum, the result of which still reflects the attitude of a majority of Norwegians.

Iceland could have valid economic reasons for making the jump, but politics again militate against it.

In 1986, then, EFTA will group six small, wealthy countries, including three — Switzerland, Norway and Sweden — whose per capita income is the highest in the industrialised world.

All their economies depend on assuring larger outlets for their exports than their small home markets can provide.

In Vienna, the six are to assess the moves they made recently to consolidate their positions by ensuring even closer cooperation with the expanding EC.

In the so-called Luxembourg Declaration of April last year, EFTA won agreement from EC ministers to abolish the remaining non-tariff barriers to their trade. The declaration also opened the way for the inclusion of EFTA countries in EC research and development projects.

Officials from the two groups are giving priority to the removal of technical barriers to trade and to simplification of border formalities, documentation and rules of origin.

Cooperation on creating a European data base to contain an

index of standards in Europe has already been agreed — there are more than 100,000 standards in the EFTA and EC countries, as well as technical regulations prescribed by individual countries.

EFTA is also hanging at the doors of the EC's new research and development programmes in information technology, telecommunications and bio-technology.

Mr. Kleppe, whose public statements as Norwegian finance minister were once renowned for their dryness and technicality, can wax almost lyrical over the opportunities opened up to countries and companies by the "future West European home market."

The benefits of this industrial market place are not one-sided. It is true that more than half of EFTA's trade is with the EC, but in 1983 EFTA was a bigger customer for Community exports

than the U.S., Canada and Japan combined.

EFTA's modesty is reflected in the size of its 1985 budget, SF 11.6 million (\$2.9 million) and its secretariat in Geneva, which has only 66 posts.

Recently, there appears to be a shift from past practice among EFTA members towards coordinating policy on international issues.

Austria, as current association chairman, acted as spokesman for the group at the last ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and at the last council of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A joint declaration on the next round of international trade negotiations under GATT can be expected from the EFTA countries in Vienna — Financial Times news feature.

# Subroto says world oil prices are under pressure

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Subroto said Saturday world oil prices were under pressure and Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members would discuss Saudi Arabia's call for a heavy oil price cut.

Yamani opposes crude oil price cuts

Meanwhile, Sheikh Yamani was quoted Saturday as saying that Saudi Arabia opposed cuts in oil prices but that heavy crude tariffs were a separate issue.

In an interview with the daily Al Sharq Al Awsat published Saturday, Sheikh Yamani said: "Saudi Arabia is against price reductions and believes they are harmful to the interests of producers and consumers alike."

But he added that heavy crude prices were a separate issue concerning price differentials for various grades of crude.

Asked whether OPEC ministers would discuss prices at meetings in Taif, he said: "Prices will not... be a subject for discussion. Our aim is to defend current prices."

Asked why so many ministers were attending, Sheikh Yamani said: "Current market conditions resulting from the behaviour of certain producers have made it necessary to study the situation, resist the pressures to which we have been subjected and correct the improprieties that led to these conditions."

Dr. Subroto told Reuters in an interview just prior to his scheduled departure for Taif that the 13-member exporter group must analyse all the market information before making a decision on the Saudi proposal at a full conference.

The Indonesian minister said he believed the proposal would be discussed at Sunday's Taif meeting which he will attend with the oil ministers of Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, with Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani in the chair, to consider oil output.

Asked whether a price change was justified, Dr. Subroto said: "The first thing is to discuss prices in full conference. Then we will have time to have all the information and everyone will be present."

"We recognise that there is a weakening and particularly the

heavy is under pressure but the best way is to wait until July before making a decision," he added.

Heavy crudes are much richer in fuel oil, which has fallen sharply in price since the winter, than light crudes. Heavy oil had been pressured by a fall in fuel oil demand, Dr. Subroto said.

Dr. Subroto declined to say whether he thought a cut in the price of heavy oil was justified by present market conditions.

OPEC's market monitoring committee meets on Tuesday bringing together Iran, Algeria, Ecuador, Iraq and Libya under the chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates.

Neither of the two forthcoming meetings can officially decide to change prices, although oil analysts said Sheikh Yamani's proposal is likely to be the main talking point.

# Credit risk in Gulf rises

KUWAIT: The English manager of a major bank in the Gulf picked up the two-inch thick wad of papers on his desk and flicked through them. "Look at them — literally hundreds of loans, some of them guaranteed by the highest in the land — and not one of them can we collect on," he said.

Throughout the Gulf, the situation is similar.

The turnaround in the region's economies brought on by the decline in oil markets and subsequently in government spending has left some of the region's banks — and some of the international banks with a presence in the area — with portfolios littered with non-performing and doubtful loans. The more difficult it is proving to seek repayment.

Those once alluring clients, with a legendary net worth, now get a cool reception from bankers. The problem is that the good names which still remain, the truly rich, do not need to borrow. Those who do have a hard time doing so now.

Throughout the region, banks are retrenching their lines of credit, and pulling back to concentrate on rescheduling their existing clients. Some foreign banks are also withdrawing their money market lines to the area.

The international banks are closely monitoring the banks in the Gulf, particularly the smaller ones. Some institutions, of course, remain sound and are growing. Their strength rests on the fact that they are owned by ruling families, governments, or "old" money families.

Most banks in the Gulf are still net placers of funds abroad, and all have the total support of their governments. And there is no question of banks being allowed to close their doors (as happened in the United Arab Emirates in 1977).

But in the last year this ironclad commitment by the states to support their banking systems has begun to prove a costly exercise. The Abu Dhabi government has had to spend considerable sums to recapitalize its new commercial bank; in Dubai the merger of three banks has cost the local

emirate government several hundred million dollars; and in Kuwait, the debt problem is likely to absorb billions of dollars of public money.

Across the Gulf, officials blame the banks for rushing too hastily into the market and for lending to clients who had no tested commercial record.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, "briefcase bankers" poured into the area. During this spree of lending, the offshore banking units in Bahrain were set up which helped produce the web of indebtedness involving major international banks.

Today, they are licking their wounds.

In several parts of the Gulf, banks are declaring large-scale redundancies. Some bankers, especially in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, are facing re-orientations behind prison bars.

Local banks are developing customer services and turning to small personal loans rather than the multi-million dollar merchant banking operations which once looked so attractive. They are also looking to their international counterparts as a diversion from the painful experiences at home.

The banks argue that it was lack of government regulation in the Gulf which allowed the situation to get out of hand.

In Kuwait, the absence of state supervision over the financial market helped generate the biggest disaster in the country's history — the Souk Al Manakh stock market collapse, which has caused hundreds of Kuwaitis to be referred to the bankruptcy court.

In the United Arab Emirates, the lack of regulatory muscle led to 50 banks competing in a population of less than 1.5 million people. Banking licences were all too easily obtained with some owners treating their institutions as little more than a source of funds.

Economists in the region say that the governments have reacted too abruptly to the decline in oil revenues and that the sudden cutbacks in spending have allowed little time for the private sector to adjust.

The governments, on the other hand, need to protect their foreign reserves and emphasise the role the private sector should play in taking up the slack in investment.

But this appeal comes at a time when there is far less liquidity and local investment opportunities look unattractive.

The courts provide little relief to bankers' problems.

In the United Arab Emirates, judgments are difficult to secure and enact and clients are frequently "missing". Despite avowedly to the contrary, ruling families still hesitate to allow the banks to exert the full rigour of the law over their citizens.

In the past, such proceedings also led to squabbles between creditors over preference in the liquidation process. Large-scale bankruptcies are occurring, particularly in Dubai, and all of them in a legal vacuum. The country has yet to formulate a bankruptcy law, despite three years of promises to do so.

In Saudi Arabia, the great impendence in bank interest, for in the motherland of Islam, the concept is not recognised in commercial and legal proceedings. Most bankers try to avoid the courts, for in the past bank interest which had been paid by a client was subtracted from the amount outstanding when a bank sought repayment.

Bankers used to be able to "shame" a client into repaying his debts, but Western influences have eroded that code of honour. The Ministry of Finance in Riyadh has not commented on these problems, yet with 300 bankruptcies since the end of 1983 and more to come, the question of bank interest is likely to loom larger.

Meanwhile, foreign bankers say they are looking at new loan requests with extreme caution.

In Kuwait, it is impossible politically for the government to pour more public money into solving the Manakh problem. Already some \$7 billion has been spent in propping up the stock market and rescuing small investors.

— Financial Times news feature.

# Poland devalues zloty again

WARSAW (R) — Poland devalued the zloty for the sixth time in less than four years Saturday in a move spotlighting the need to export more to the West to reduce its foreign debt of at least \$27 billion.

The devaluation, announced by the official news agency PAP, cut the value of the zloty by 13.2 per cent from 138 to 159 zlotys to the dollar and applied equally to all other major Western currencies.

The measure was taken as Poland's communist leaders ended a two-day economic conference in the western city of Poznan designed partly to answer the question of how the country can sell more in the competitive industrial markets of the West.

A Communist Party economic expert, Mr. Kazimierz Barcikowski, referred in a speech to the conference Friday to complaints from Polish industrialists

that the zloty is overvalued, making exporting an unnecessarily difficult business.

"It is necessary once again to examine all the proposals which are intended to stimulate export production, including calls for a more active use of exchange rate policy in foreign trade with hard-currency customers," Mr. Barcikowski said.

No Polish or Western economist doubts that more exports are the key to easing Poland's burden of foreign debt, but there is some disagreement as to whether an overvalued zloty really lies at the heart of the problem.

Polish industry has long been plagued by ill such as poor product quality, delays in delivery, labour shortages and absenteeism, over-investment in outdated projects and simple waste and mismanagement, economists said.

They predicted, however, that more devaluations were almost certain in the next 18 months. The zloty, worth about 25 to the dollar in 1980, was devalued in January 1982, July 1983, March and September 1984 and again last January.

Above all, it is heavily dependent on technology and parts imported from Western countries. These imports fell sharply after the West banned fresh credit to Poland as part of sanctions imposed in response to the suppression of the Solidarity free trade union under martial law in December 1981.

Until Poland overcomes its structural problems and receives new Western credit on a large scale, exporting is likely to remain an uphill struggle, the economists said.

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UAI was third on the activist list, jumping 4% to 53%.

A number of other airline issues posted gains, with Piedmont climbing 1% to 33%, AMR 2% to 47%, NWA 1% to 47%, Usair Group 7/8 to 34-3/4 and Delta one to 48.

# Wall Street stocks close at new record high level

NEW YORK (R) — A powerful rally lifted Wall Street stock prices to record highs Friday as investors speculated that interest rates will fall and several mergers will take place.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained by 9.63 points to close at a record high 1315.41. The old record was 1309.70 which was set May 21.

Volume on the New York stock exchange rose to 134.14 million shares from 108.33 million Thursday.

Analyst Ralph Acampora of Kidder, Peabody said the rise "finally confirmed the strength in the industrials. It shows that the market is in gear."

Mid-South Utilities was the day's most actively traded issue, though it closed unchanged at 14 1/4. There were 3.25 million Mid-South shares that changed hands Friday.

Long Island Lighting was the second most heavily traded stock, rising 1% to close at 8 1/4. The

company settled a dispute with local officials over evacuation procedures to be used in the area surrounding its Shurehan nuclear plant.

UAI was third on the activist list, jumping 4% to 53%.

A number of other airline issues posted gains, with Piedmont climbing 1% to 33%, AMR 2% to 47%, NWA 1% to 47%, Usair Group 7/8 to 34-3/4 and Delta one to 48.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The full moon in effect today brings you the desire to be off and away to new scenes, new personalities and new surroundings, but don't act too hastily or you'll have to retrace steps.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get in touch with those whose ideas are quite different to your own, and you gain valuable knowledge. Get your wardrobe in order.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be careful in dealing with your partner since there is apt to be a great deal of activity in various spheres.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A good day to get into worldly activities and know what is going on around you so that you know how best to proceed in the future.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get at those weekend duties that need your personal consideration and save time during the next week.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You know just what will make you most happy, so turn your thoughts and action in such direction.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have to be calm and considerate at home otherwise a battle can occur at the drop of a bat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more concerned with what you believe in and plan your life more intelligently. If out to visit good friends, use much care on roads.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are apt to be too greedy today in going after practical affairs, so tone down and be reasonable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have many personal needs, but don't be forceful with others in order to gain them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You feel stifled and want to get out to new avenues of expression, but first keep any promises you have made.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You desire seeing as many friends as you can and should do so today, since much good can come of this.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Curb your outside activities today so that you do not over-tire yourself. Take time for needed meditation.

## THE Daily Crossword by H. Kermit Jackson

ACROSS

- Public square
- Wool measures
- Alcohol burner
- Severely
- Miss shift
- Follow closely
- Religious town
- Exploding star
- Exhort
- Men emblem
- Overlook
- Chemical ending
- Consumed
- Spl.
- Royal headwear
- Grid group
- Outlaw
- Broadway smash
- Scoria
- Myra
- Bad March days
- Ornament
- Past and future
- Actor-Alan
- Knuckle strike
- Grande
- Rugged peak
- Br. brilliance
- Pontiff's
- Press
- Sp. lady
- Tex. mission
- Year apart
- Site of ancient Olympic games
- Dashed
- Inspects
- Ensnare
- Lady's garb

DOWN

- Babble
- Costa Rican port
- Marble
- "Twilight"
- Old Semitic tongue
- Orange cousin
- Scant
- Couch
- Posture
- Fancy case
- Pol source
- Dresses stone
- Nautical word
- Give sparingly
- O'Hara home
- Romance
- Nuclear device
- Pleagues
- "Vid."
- Summers: Fr.
- Post Ogden
- Story line
- Great review
- Baking chamber
- Cause to blush
- Tibetan giant
- Small gull
- Spotted cat
- Depress
- Author Ernest
- Quickly
- Fancy fabrics
- Trudges
- Kingly title
- Hunted animal
- Solitary
- Concludes
- Military group
- Winged

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

PAWNA, AUSTIN, PAIPA, DRAIN, RIGOR, TATIO, PETE, WIRIAN, BLACK, VINE, BREAKFRONT, PARLOR, RIA, FURY, RACONTAIGE, LARIGE, FOUNG, FIAN, ORBE, FOIST, FIELD, CINN, BRINK, DARES, UNIVERSE, CHIO, BAIN, ORIENTE, PRODIGES, TIS, VIAL, LORIAN, AURS, TIAS, RICHIE, WILLY.

## Peanuts

IF WE WATCH TV ALL THE TIME, WE WON'T HAVE TO LEARN TO READ...

IF WE USE WORD PROCESSORS AND CALCULATORS, WE WON'T HAVE TO LEARN TO WRITE OR DO MATH...

PRETTY SOON WE WON'T HAVE TO KNOW ANYTHING

THAT'S WHEN I'LL FIT IN!

## Mutt 'n' Jeff

OH, GOSH, I LEFT MY WALLET HOME! I AIN'T GOT ANY MONEY TO PAY THIS FARE!

TAXI, WAIT UP! I WANT TO GO IN THIS DRUGSTORE AND GET SOME MATCHES!

I DROPPED A \$20 BILL SOMEWHERE IN THE CAB AND I CAN'T FIND IT IN THE DARK!

## Andy Capp

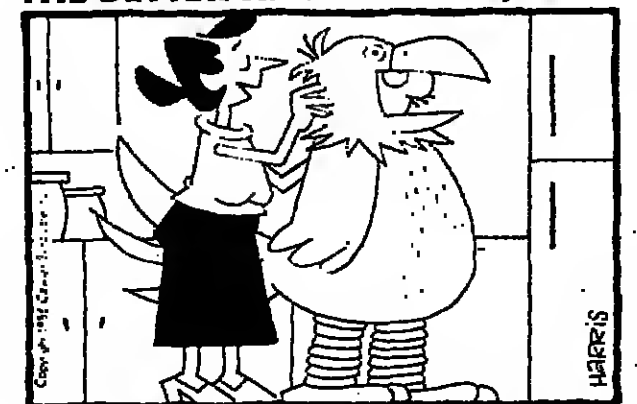
SOMEONE'S IN A GOOD MOOD, CONSIDERING HER HUSBAND'S LEFT HER —

I'VE DONE A GOOD MORNING'S WORK, DEAR. I MADE THREE ATTEMPTS AT WRITING TO ANDY ABOUT A RECONCILIATION — AND DESTROYED THE LOT

JOB SATISFACTION

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Horn Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AMLET

BEREL

HAMMEY

RAWSEN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: IT'S

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGLOW DIRTY FLIMSY COUGAR  
Answer: The percussion player enjoyed with his dinner — DRUM "ROLLS"



# Supreme Soviet to meet on July 2, may elect Gorbachev as president

MOSCOW (R) — The Supreme Soviet, the Soviet equivalent of a parliament, is to meet in Moscow on July 2 for a session which Western diplomats say is likely to see Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev elected state president.

The date of the session of the Supreme Soviet, which meets twice a year to approve legislation proposed by the leadership, was given Saturday by TASS News Agency in a brief announcement.

Mr. Gorbachev, 54, was elected Communist Party secretary general in March on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, and he is expected to confirm his domination of the Kremlin scene by adding the title of Soviet president at the first opportunity.

The presidency is a largely formal function, but it allows the party chief, who wields real power, to meet foreign heads of state on equal terms. All three of Mr. Gorbachev's predecessors as party chief assumed the presidency.

Meanwhile Mr. Gorbachev on Friday proposed a one- or two-month deadline for his country and the United States to sub-

mit arms control suggestions at the Geneva talks.

Speaking at a Kremlin banquet for visiting Czechoslovakia Leader Gustav Husak, Mr. Gorbachev renewed a Soviet proposal for an immediate moratorium on nuclear and space weapons as a measure to build trust between the two sides at the Geneva talks.

The moratorium has already been rejected by the United States, which says such a move would freeze a Soviet advantage in nuclear and anti-satellite weapons.

Mr. Gorbachev then added an apparently new proposal of a deadline for introducing practical suggestions to reduce arms.

"We suggest that in introducing the moratorium, the Soviet Union and the United States agree that they will make at the talks during a specific period, say, one or two months, their practical proposals on all the questions under con-

sideration," Mr. Gorbachev said, according to the official news agency TASS.

He said these should include "the levels to which they (the two sides) would be prepared to reduce their strategic offensive armaments, naturally, on the condition that attack space weapons are banned."

Mr. Gorbachev reiterated Moscow's view that the proposed moratorium "would not give advantage to either side."

The two superpowers agreed when announcing the new arms control talks in January that they would search for ways to reduce nuclear and space weapons.

It was not clear if Mr. Gorbachev's statement implied that negotiators at Geneva have not yet submitted their countries' full proposals for reducing arms in the three areas under discussion: Strategic nuclear weapons, nuclear missiles in Europe and space weapons.

The Geneva negotiations resumed on Thursday after a first round that apparently did little to resolve old Soviet-U.S. disputes on arms control.



**VICTIMS OF STAMPEDE:** Relatives of Italian soccer fans killed Wednesday in a riot at Brussels' Heysel Stadium stand in front of the line-up coffins Saturday at Brussels' military airport where a service was held before the coffins and the relatives returned to Italy (AP wirephoto)

## Tamils raid villages, kill 5 people

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist guerrillas raided two Sinhalese villages in eastern province, killing five people and wounding several more, a government spokesman said.

He said several armed guerrillas stormed the Mahindapura and Delhiwatta villages, burning homes and fighting residents.

The rebels set fire to more than 50 homes and at least 500 people fled and sought refuge in temples and schools, he said.

First reports said three of the wounded were in critical condition

while others had minor injuries.

It was the second major guerrilla strike on the island's majority Sinhalese in two weeks.

Guerrillas, fighting to set up a Tamil state in northern and eastern areas, killed at least 150 people, mostly Sinhalese in the Buddhist holy city of Anuradhapura in north central province on May 14.

President Junius Jayewardene prepared to leave for New Delhi for talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the island's ethnic unrest.

Political observers said the two

attacks last month on the Sinhalese stressed the urgency for a solution to the unrest between Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

The spokesman said security reinforcements were being rushed to Trincomalee and aid provided to the affected people.

He said public transport had come to a standstill and food was in short supply. "But government is taking all measures necessary to defuse the tension," he told Reuters.

There are more Tamils than Sinhalese living in the Trincomalee district.

## Seoul agrees to political talks with Pyongyang

SEOUL (R) — South Korea said Saturday it would accept parliamentary talks proposed by North Korea to help bring about an early union of the divided peninsula, a Seoul parliamentary spokesman said.

The move is the latest of a series of peace gestures since last year between the two sides who fought each other in the 1950-53 Korean War.

A North Korean Red Cross delegation returned to Pyongyang from Seoul on Thursday after agreeing in principle to exchange visits between some of an estimated 10 million relatives separated on both sides of the border since the war.

Seoul's parliament, unanimously adopting a reply to be delivered to the Communist North on Monday, said five members of parliament from each side should meet at the Panmunjom border village next month to arrange for the talks.

It said the proposed dialogue should discuss a Seoul proposal to prepare a unified constitution to help realise the peaceful unity of the Koreans as soon as possible.



## 3 security guards killed by rocket attack

MARSEILLES, France (R) — Masked robbers have killed three security guards when they fired a rocket at a security van in this Mediterranean city, police said. The robbers blocked the van as it pulled out of a supermarket car park and then blew it to pieces with a rocket, scattering hand-knives onto the street. Police said the raiders were unable to retrieve anything from the smouldering, blood-splattered wreckage and escaped by car. The deaths bring to six the number of people killed in attacks on French security vans over the past two days.

## Handicapped artists demonstrate skills

PEKING (AP) — Armless painters, table tennis players and calligraphers demonstrated their skills Friday at a Chinese competition aimed at boosting the social status of handicapped people, the official news agency Xinhua reported. It said Deng Pufang, wheelchair-bound son of top leader Deng Xiaoping and director of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped, attended the contest in the central city of Wuhan. "Armless men astounded audiences at the skill competition," the agency said. It quoted Deng as saying "these marvels proved the disabled could find a place in Socialist construction." Contestants ranged from Zhejiang peasant Lin Chengmei, who plays table tennis by clenching a paddle between his teeth, to Zou Kaiyuan, who repairs watches and gives a 40-minute magic show with his feet, the agency said.

## Sikhs begin observing 'genocide week'

AMRITSAR, India (R) — Tens of thousands of troops and police were deployed across northern India Saturday as Sikhs began observing what they called "genocide week" to mark the first anniversary of the storming of the Golden Temple.

The Press Trust of India news agency said the government had told all states to take every possible step to foil any trouble.

The border with Pakistan has been sealed and security has been tightened at airports, railway and bus stations, government buildings and vital installations.

In the Sikh holy city of Amritsar hundreds of paramilitary troops patrolled the area around the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, where continuous prayers

started Saturday.

Amritsar Deputy Police Commissioner Rameshinder Singh told Reuters additional paramilitary forces took up position over the city Saturday to head off violence. Security forces were also on alert in strength throughout Punjab state and neighbouring Haryana.

About 1,000 Sikhs were killed when the army attacked the Golden Temple complex a year ago on Monday. The temple fell on June 6.

"We prayed this morning for peaceful protests," said Joginder Singh, a militant Sikh leader and father of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who was killed leading the Sikh extremists in the battle. Joginder Singh told Reuters he would address a rally later in the

industrial town of Batala, about 30 kilometres north of Amritsar.

He said the rally was the first of a series of meetings to mark the anniversary week, declared "genocide week" by the militants. It will end with a meeting in the Golden Temple which about 500,000 Sikhs are expected to attend.

Police said New Delhi was under a strict security umbrella to prevent attacks like the May 10 Sikh extremist bomb offensive across northern India which killed 86 people.

Defying the security alert, Sikh extremists on Thursday shot dead a Hindu shopkeeper in Punjab and Friday tried to blow up a bus in the neighbouring state of Haryana.

## 10 die in Argentine rainstorm

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from Buenos Aires after torrential rains flooded large areas of the Argentine capital and disrupted public services.

At least 10 people died, some electrocuted by fallen power lines, others drowned or struck by lightning, local news agencies reported.

Telephones and power supplies were disrupted by more than 290 millimetres of rain in 19 hours and the city's airport was closed.

Rescue boats manned by frogmen were dispatched to worst-hit areas, where waves up to two metres high swept away cars and shattered shop windows.

Thousands of stranded commuters looked for shelter as railways and main highways out of Buenos Aires were cut by the downpour, one of the worst recorded in the capital's history.

The news agency Noticias Argentinas said over 40,000 people had been evacuated from low-lying areas around Buenos Aires.

Three radio stations went off the air and the state-owned electricity company said services had been reduced and cut off to some areas to prevent further electrocutions.

Market sources reported financial activity down to a third of normal volume.

Among the dead were two sisters aged 10 and 11, sucked into a drain as they walked alongside their mother in the suburb of Moron, the semi-official news agency Telam reported.

Weather bureau officials said the rainstorm appeared one of the worst in memory.

A storm last January killed two people in Buenos Aires and caused severe damage in several areas after 192 millimetres of rain lashed the city in one day.

## 2 Filipino army commanders suspended

MANILA (R) — Two army colonels have been suspended following Communist rebel attacks on their central Philippines commands in which about 30 of their men were killed or wounded, military headquarters announced.

They were Colonel Isagani de Los Santos, a special task force and brigade commander in Isabela, Negros Occidental province, and Lt-Col. Cesar Ursal,

an infantry battalion acting commander on Samar Island.

Acting chief of staff Lt-Gen. Fidel Ramos ordered their suspension "for their failure to perform utmost supervision in their subordinate units."

Col. Ursal's suspension followed New People's Army (NPA) raids on two towns in eastern and northern Samar provinces last

week in which six soldiers were killed and five soldiers and four civilians wounded.

Col. De Los Santos was suspended after about 150 guerrillas stormed an army post in Isabela on Sunday, killing 12 soldiers and wounding at least 10. It was believed to be the first NPA attack in such strength in Negros Occidental, the Philippines main sugar-producing area.

## Peace remains elusive in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — President Jose Napoleon Duarte has kept left-wing guerrillas fighting to overthrow his U.S.-backed government in check but the peace he promised El Salvador when he took office a year ago remains elusive.

His moderate Christian Democratic government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) held two meetings last year but failed to agree a formula to end the five-year-old civil war which has taken at least 55,000 lives.

But a decisive victory by the Christian Democrats in last April's municipal and National Assembly elections boosted Mr. Duarte's hopes of implementing reforms that could help end the war.

Mr. Duarte gained control of the National Assembly which had previously been dominated by a

coalition of right-wing parties hostile to correcting the political, social and economic injustices at the roots of the conflict.

The electoral victory enabled Mr. Duarte to dismiss Attorney General Jose Francisco Guerrero of the ultra right-wing National Republican Alliance (ARENA) party whom he accused of failing to prosecute people responsible for political violence.

A clean-up of the judicial system was one of the promises made by Mr. Duarte when he took office as El Salvador's first freely-elected president in 50 years on June 1, 1984.

Thousands of the civilians killed in the civil war are believed to have been victims of right-wing death squads connected with security forces and linked by U.S. officials to ARENA, but only a handful of servicemen have been charged with crimes against

human rights.

Thanks to a massive influx of U.S. aid, El Salvador's military have become more effective in recent months, foiling rebel attacks by rapidly deploying helicopter-borne troops to wherever guerrilla concentrations are detected.

But the guerrillas have adopted new tactics, avoiding head-on clashes with the better-equipped government troops and planning mines throughout the country.

The economy has made no progress since Mr. Duarte came to office and has been plagued by the United States, which sees a guerrilla victory as paving the way for Communism in Central America.

Washington has earmarked \$320.8 million in non-military aid for El Salvador this year, compared with \$60 million in 1980.

## BBC plans world television service

LONDON — The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) is discussing with the Foreign Office the feasibility of an international television service on the lines of radio's existing BBC World Service.

Corporation executives are predicting that within the next five years a pilot scheme will be preparing programmes and directing them by satellite to Europe and the Third World in particular.

Government enthusiasm may be limited because the Eastern Bloc, containing the very countries it would most like to penetrate, could not easily be reached by television. International rules forbid broadcasting with satellites to another country without permission.

"Even if you consider fairly small dish aerials on buildings of the receiving country these would still be visible to your friendly nei-

ghbourhood KGB man or whatever," Mr. Austen Karak, managing director of BBC External Services, said at a recent Broadcasting Press Guild lunch in London.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that it had not yet received formal specific proposals. "We would look at them with interest, but it would cost money and it is not on at the moment" — The Guardian.

## Greeks to vote for new 300-seat parliament today

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greeks go to the polls Sunday to elect a new parliament to decide whether the country should continue experimenting with Socialism or re-adopt free enterprise and closer ties with the West.

About 2,500 candidates are vying for the 300 seats in the single chamber parliament. The candidates represent 19 political parties ranging from extreme right to revolutionary left.

Two parties, the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) led by Andreas Papandreu and the conservative New Democracy headed by Constantine Mitsotakis, are expected to cop most of the seats in the closely contested election.

The Moscow-line Greek Communist Party (KKE) which has accused the Socialists and conservatives of turning the electoral game into a two-party duel, is expected to gain 15 seats.

Mr. Papandreu has pledged to continue to transform Greece into a state "for the good of all the people," and loose ties with the West. But the cost has been great since he was elected in 1981 with continuing double digit inflation and more than 10 per cent of the 3.5 million work force unemployed.

Mitsotakis is confident his party can win an absolute parliamentary majority so he can reinstate the

economy through private initiative and decrease the government's role in industry.

About 19,000 polling stations open at sunrise and close at sunset so that 7,661,588 registered voters can cast their ballots in secret. At past elections, a 20 per cent abstention has been usual.

The voting age has been dropped to 18 years of age from 20 following legislation enacted shortly after the Socialists took power. The new law increased the rolls by 600,000 voters for this election.

Voting is obligatory and only persons over 70 years-old, are excused if they decline to go to the polls. Penalties for not voting without a valid reason, range from fines to withholding passports for one year.

The elections will be held under the reinforced proportional representation system which favours the two biggest parties, PASOK and New Democracy. But Mr. Papandreu slightly revised the electoral law to give smaller parties a better chance for a place in parliament if they gain 2 to 3 per cent of the total vote. About 42 per cent is the minimum required for any one party to win an absolute majority in parliament.

In the 1981 elections PASOK won 174 seats with New Democracy coping 113 and the KKE 13.

Former Greek President Constantine Karamanlis broke three months of silence and dashed with the ruling Socialist Party as a bitter campaign for Sunday's general election wound up Saturday night with big political rallies.

Mr. Karamanlis, whose resignation on March 10 contributed to a political crisis here, said Saturday night constitutional changes proposed by the Socialists could result in "impasse at home and abroad," and that Greece was already in "confusion and uncertainty."

This assertion was sharply rejected by the PASOK led by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who was earlier given a tumultuous reception by hundreds of thousands of supporters at a final election rally in Athens.

PASOK said the only threat to normality in Greece came from New Democracy, the conservative party Mr. Karamanlis headed before becoming constitutional head of state in 1980. New Democracy refuses to recognise the new president, Christos Sartzetakis.

"Greek people will not be trapped. By voting PASOK they are consolidating normality, democracy and reconciliation. The country is neither in confusion nor in uncertainty," it added.

The constitutional changes, opposed by Mr. Karamanlis involve trimming the head of state's

political power.

The statement by Mr. Karamanlis, who enjoys prestige as the man who restored democracy to Greece after the 1967-74 military junta, was a boost to conservative morale as Mr. Papandreu and New Democracy leader Constantine Mitsotakis fired final salvos.

Mr. Papandreu, his voice often drowned by the din of firecrackers and smoke-bombs, lashed Mr. Mitsotakis' proposal of dialogue on Greek-Turkish issues, repeatedly accusing him of being unpatriotic. "Concessions encourage the enemy," he said.

The Socialist leader also said a victory for Mr. Mitsotakis would mean a new crisis over President Sartzetakis, who has pledged to stay in office regardless of the result.

Mr. Mitsotakis, whose supporters have reacted with fury to left-wing press allegations that he was friendly with the Nazi occupiers of his native Crete, accused PASOK of using underhand methods and intimidation in its election campaign.

While Mr. Papandreu branded Mr. Mitsotakis as an admirer of the right-wing governments of London, Bonn and Washington, the conservative leader said his private enterprise policies would not involve curbs on social welfare.

## Chatham Docks to be turned into new town

LONDON (R) — Chatham Naval Dockyard, which built Nelson's flagship Victory, will be transformed into a new town in a £350-million (\$446-million) redevelopment. The dockyard on the River Medway in Kent was closed by the government in 1983 in a cost-cutting exercise. Chatham nurtured British seapower for more than 400 years, Nelson and Sir Francis Drake beginning their seafaring lives there. The dockyard built sailing ships in the 16th Century, submarines in the 20th Century. The government-backed developers English Estates said they would create a new town on the 430-acre (172-hectare) site with more than 1,000 houses, shopping and leisure facilities and high-technology industry.

## People's Daily to use old Chinese characters

PEKING (AP) — A new overseas edition of the Communist Party organ People's Daily will premiere July 1 using old-fashioned Chinese characters instead of the simplified forms adopted after 1949, the newspaper said Friday. A front-page announcement said the overseas edition, to be sold in New York, San Francisco, Tokyo, Paris, Hong Kong and Macao, will be designed "to satisfy the needs of overseas Chinese, Hong Kong and Macao compatriots and foreign friends." Most overseas Chinese and those living in Hong Kong and Macao are accustomed to the old-style characters, which have more strokes than the simplified forms invented to promote literacy.

## Soviets return in force to Paris Air Show

PARIS (AP) — The Soviet Union has announced its return in force to the Paris Air Show with a bear of an airplane — touted as the biggest ever — never before seen in the West. The Soviet transport plane sits at the end of the display area at Le Bourget Airport, but its hulking presence cannot be ignored. As a curiosity it is the star of the 10-day show. To the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the plane is known as the "Condor." To the Soviets, it is "Ruslan," meaning "a very big man." The outer dimensions of the plane are discretely absent from the placard sitting in front of it bearing other vital statistics. Test flight engineer Anatoly Boulanenko said: "This aircraft is the biggest in the world in geometrical size, payload and absolute takeoff weight," he told the Associated Press. The Antonov's weight at takeoff is 40 tonnes, he added. The Lockheed C-5B Galaxy has a wingspan of 67.8 metres, but an overall length of 75.5 metres. The Soviet Union, while retaining its pavilion of technological exhibits, displayed no aircraft at the last Paris Air Show.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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### AVOID BEING EMBARRASSED

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ K1053  
♥ J83  
♦ AK5  
♣ 103

WEST  
♠ 76  
♥ 7  
♦ Q89432  
♣ Q972

EAST  
♠ 982  
♥ AQ109  
♦ KJ54  
♣ A

SOUTH  
♠ AQJ4  
♥ K542  
♦ J106  
♣ A8

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of 7.

Don't submit tamely to an end play. Sometimes you have the wherewithal to avoid it.

The bidding doesn't find favor with this department. We would prefer a preemptive jump to three clubs with the West hand, and a cue bid of four clubs rather than the unilaterally picking a major with the South hand. The final contract, however, was eminently reasonable.

West elected to lead his singleton heart. East rose with the ace and returned the nine. Declarer played

low. West ruffed and shifted to a club. After capturing East's king with the ace, declarer drew two rounds of trumps, cashed the diamond ace and returned to hand with a trump for the diamond finesse.

When that succeeded, declarer cashed dummy's remaining diamond winner to reach this position:

♠ 10 ♠ 10

♦ 10 ♦ 10

♣ 10 ♣ 10

♠ 10 ♠ 10

♦ 10 ♦ 10

♣ 10 ♣ 10

Declarer exited with dummy's club, and he didn't mind who won the trick. If East took it, he could either lead away from his queen of hearts or give declarer a ruff-suff: If West wins the club, he is forced to yield a ruff-suff. Either way, declarer could lose no more tricks.

East could have prevented the end play. At trick two he should return the queen of hearts, and West ruffs away declarer's king. Now when declarer tries the throwaway in play in clubs, East can rise with the jack and exit with the two of hearts, and he must still come to a heart trick for down one.

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